

An aerial photograph of the village of Lazonby, showing a mix of residential buildings, a church with a prominent spire, and extensive green agricultural fields separated by stone walls. The village is nestled in a valley, with roads and paths winding through the landscape. The text 'Lazonby Parish Plan 2005' is overlaid in the top right corner.

Lazonby Parish Plan 2005

Photograph Courtesy of Cumbrian Newspapers

LAZONBY PARISH PLAN 2005

On behalf of the Parish Council, I should like to give my sincere thanks to all who have contributed to the production of the Parish Plan. I include here the Steering Group who have given a considerable amount of time and effort to the production of this very informative and active piece of work; the parishioners of Lazonby who gave their much needed views in the questionnaire that was distributed to every household in the Parish by a willing group of volunteers; to Anna Scamans, Voluntary Action Cumbria, who attended evening meetings to guide the Steering Group, and kept us focussed on the task; to all those who took part in the various competitions organised to stimulate debate on the Plan, and to look at the good, and maybe not so good, in the Parish; and those who made financial donations towards the production of the Plan.

This project has been extremely worthwhile, and has produced a Parish Plan that will influence decisions in and about the Parish for years to come.

However, this is just the first stage in the process: we now need to influence those agencies who can assist us in delivering the Plan. This will ensure that a sustainable community exists in Lazonby Parish for future generations.

Finally, it is the intention of the Parish Council to work with Eden District Council, Cumbria County Council and to others to ensure that the recommendations contained within the Plan are implemented at every available opportunity.

Allan Dickson, Chairman Lazonby Parish Council



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I. WHAT IS THE PARISH PLAN?

The countryside is changing fast everywhere, for all kinds of reasons. Lazonby has changed a great deal, even in the last 10 years, and change will continue.

We cannot prevent change, but we can manage it, if we decide what we want, and use all the influence we can, to make Lazonby the kind of place we should like it to be in future years.

Writing a Parish Plan is a way of capturing people's ideas of what sort of place Lazonby is, what they like and dislike about it, and what needs to be done to protect and improve it.

This plan has been prepared by a steering group of people commissioned by the Parish Council in 2004. The group consisted of Allan Dickson (Parish Councillor), Fiona Smart (Parish Councillor), Graham Hale, Harry Knipe, Elisabeth Knipe, Allan Armstrong, Andy Smart, Daniela Wilby, Sheila Fletcher (Steering Group Co-ordinator). The early stages of the process involved two open public meetings, and contacts with local organisations to collect ideas. Regular reports were made to the Parish Council, and one to the Neighbourhood Forum.

As part of their groundwork, the Steering Group looked at many other Parish Plans, and sought the advice of Voluntary Action Cumbria. Funding was obtained from various sources. Following an initial appraisal by the Steering Group, a questionnaire was designed and tested. Arrangements were made to distribute the questionnaire to every known household in the parish in the spring of 2004.

As part of the publicity for the questionnaire, there were photographic competitions for children, adults, and local businesses, and a children's painting competition organised through Lazonby School. In October 2004 the Steering Group organised a village weekend, with displays of photos and paintings, presentation of prizes, and a village guided walk followed by refreshments and displays in the church.

The Steering Group made strenuous efforts to ensure that all those who wished to express their opinions on parish affairs were aware of the consultation process, and had every opportunity to take part. The original deadline for returning questionnaires was put back, and further publicity was arranged. A total of 171 completed questionnaires were returned, this figure being 43% of the total number of households recorded in the 2001 census of Lazonby. In the judgement of the Steering Group, the number and quality of responses was such as to provide a reliable picture of local opinion, on the basis of which the Parish Council can proceed with confidence.

People put a lot of thought into their answers - the future of Lazonby is something about which people really care. It is impossible to mention every individual comment made in the questionnaires, but the Steering Group have done their best to give a fair account of people's views, and to suggest ways forward which will help bring about what people want to happen.

This Parish Plan was formally adopted by Lazonby Parish Council on 2nd March 2005. The Parish Council intends to use the Action Plan to follow up all the issues raised, reviewing it formally each year, and will report progress at each Parish Open Meeting.

Nothing will happen unless we, the people who live here, make it happen. Some things we can do as individuals, others through our clubs and organisations, possibly by forming new ones. Other things can be decided and done by the Parish Council. And some very important issues will require the Parish to persuade the local authorities, especially Eden District Council and the County Council, to accept the Parish's proposals for the matters which those authorities control.

2. SOME FACTS ABOUT LAZONBY

Lazonby Parish lies to the north-east of Penrith, in the Eden District of Cumbria. It is about 5 miles long and 2-3 miles wide, with the River Eden along its north-east side, and the A6 along the south-west. Lazonby village, with almost all the population, lies at the far eastern corner, 7 miles from Penrith, and 15 miles from Carlisle.

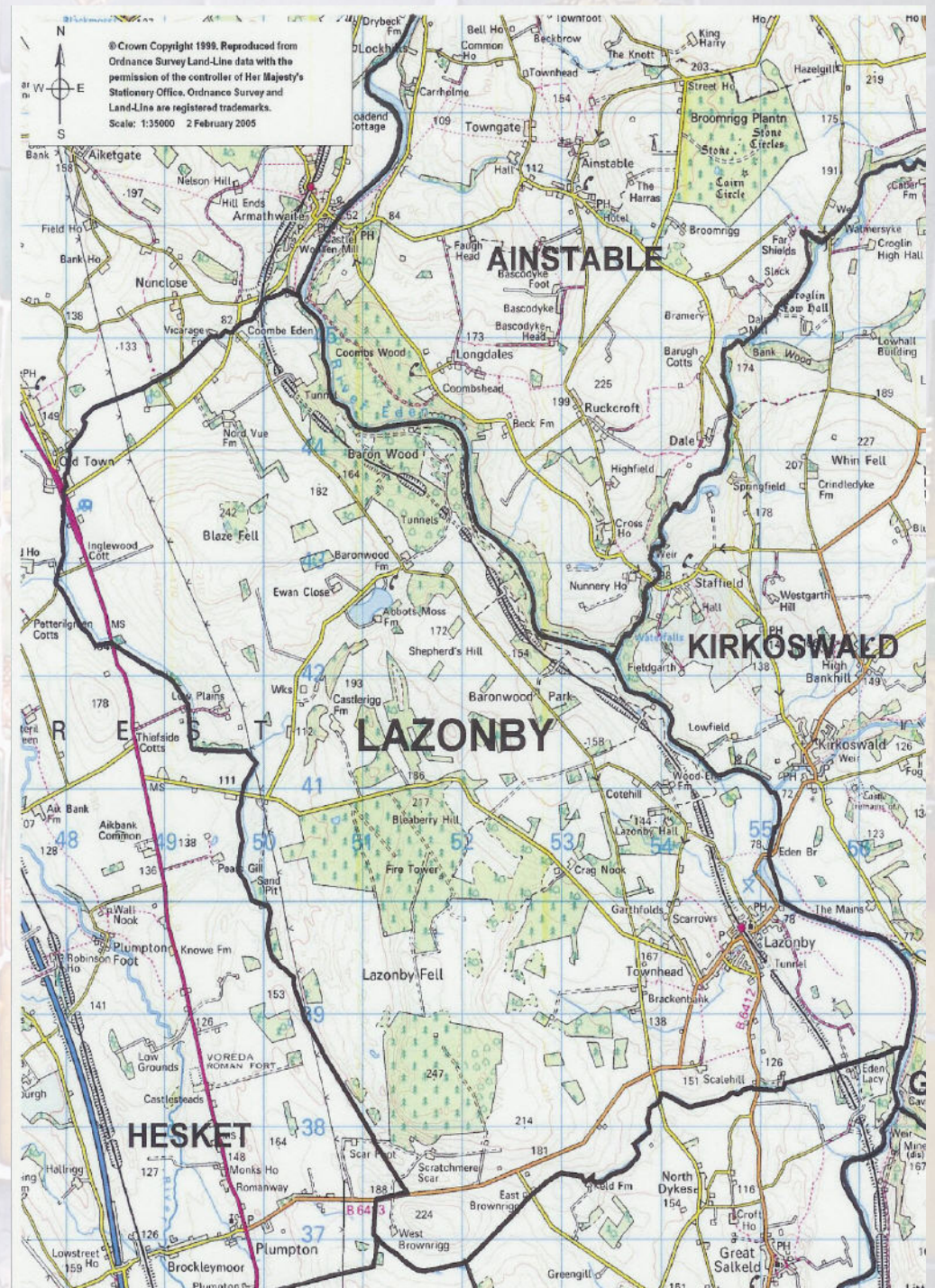
There has been continuous growth and change, especially since the arrival of the railway in the 19th century, with successive groups of newcomers becoming integrated into the established community.

At the last national census in April 2001, the parish population was 981. This was a considerable rise of almost 20% since 1991 - 155 more people in ten years. There were 402 households, of which 87 were composed of one person, 119 included dependent children, and 113 consisted of pensioners. The average household size was 2.44.

There were 204 under-16's (20.1%), and 180 people 65 and over (18.3%). 147 people had a long-term illness or disability which limited their daily lives, 55 of these of working age. 84 people (8.6%) were providing unpaid care to a sick or disabled person, some for many hours every week. The 402 households owned 620 cars or vans between them. 86 people (8.8%) had moved into the area within the previous 12 months, and 77 had moved out.



Village History Walk 2004



3. THE COMMUNITY IN LAZONBY

As one person put it, Lazonby Parish is “a great place to live”. Many agreed, including the person who noted that “living here is a dream come true”. However despite numerous positive views, some of the people who responded to the questionnaire wondered if Lazonby was getting too big and on the way to developing a “small town attitude” with a “loss of village expectations”.

People had a lot to say about the community. One saw the need to “get the community spirit back into the village”. Another thought that we “need to build a community that cares and looks out for each other”. For others, the community spirit is alive in the Parish, a perception supported by the many who talked of Lazonby being a friendly, welcoming place. There are many thriving organisations within the parish, some long-established, some recently formed.

Building community spirit

Depending on your view, there either is, or could be, a great sense of community in the Parish. Maybe a sense of community is something to do with getting involved. A lot goes on in the Parish, even if people don't always know about it. 37% of responses speak of a lack of time to take part, and 12% cite child care difficulties. Although small in numbers, 3% explain that the reason why they don't get involved relates to the care of elderly or sick individuals. 3% said a lack of transport made involvement difficult, a point expanded on by the person who spoke about it being hard to get up the hill to events in the Village Hall.

Importantly, although 18% say that they don't want to get involved, an equal number say that they would like to be involved in community based projects. Ideas about possible initiatives included:

the environment, conservation, sport, youth, toddler, family gardening, visiting the elderly, Christmas parties, music workshops, twinning with other communities, trimming and grass cutting, Parish Council.



WHAT CAN BE DONE?

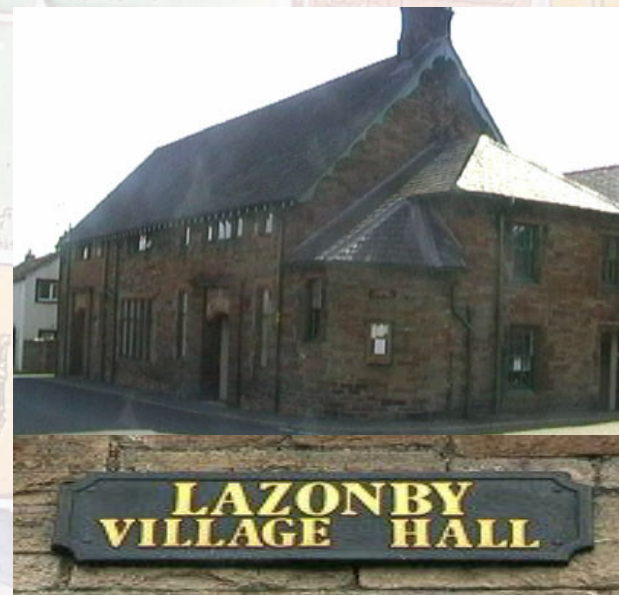
A village fair, a carnival, a sports day, a bonfire, maybe just better use of the Village Hall? – there are lots of ideas in the questionnaires.

Information exchange

Perhaps the best way to start is to get everyone really well informed, and help like-minded people get together. We could set up a Lazonby Parish Web site, with details of local events, people, initiatives, problems and suggestions, and parish projects for which volunteers are needed.

Web-sites and e-mail work well for a lot of people, but it will be important to ensure that people who do not use the Internet are also kept in touch, so we could also replace and maybe re-site the notice boards, for better accessibility to everyone.

Consider providing a welcome pack for newcomers (this is already being looked at), make full use of Lazonby Lines and find a way to get it to everyone in the Parish.



4. THE PARISH COUNCIL

People had a lot to say about the Parish Council and its role in the community. Of the 171 views expressed, 128 were largely positive and only 9 clearly negative. Some people felt that the Council's style of working was "slow and bureaucratic". In relation to planning permission and the control of developments, a number of respondents thought the Council's powers were limited and readily overruled.

In answer to the question, "how can the Parish Council get parishioners more involved in its work?" a number of suggestions were put forward, including:

- explaining its functions and limitations
- adopting a more open, personal style
- encouraging public commitment by asking for the help it needs
- organising social events for the Parish

People also spoke about the need for the Parish Council to keep working on the way it communicates with parishioners. Someone suggested that e-mail could be used to receive people's views. Thoughts varied considerably about the monthly newsletter sent with Lazonby Lines. A few were critical of its style, but the majority thought the newsletter provided valuable information about the Parish Council and its work.

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

The Parish Council should review its own methods of working, and its means of communication to and from parishioners, in the light of people's comments in the questionnaires.

A good first step would be to make sure that all of the members of the Parish Council are known to the Parish - not just their names, but their areas of interest and particular expertise.



Date
Unknown



1964

5. AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR A BALANCED COMMUNITY

To be sustainable in future, both socially and economically, the Parish needs to retain a balance of families, single people, young, middle-aged and older people. Different groups have different needs, both for housing and other services, but housing is the most critical factor for the future. Since the steep price rises of recent years, even the smallest properties here are now unaffordable for people on average local wages.

The questionnaires confirmed the local problem. 52 respondents knew of people who have moved out of the Parish because they couldn't afford to buy or rent property within it. The same number thought these people might return if cheaper housing were available. 7 households had people living with them because they could not afford to rent or buy within the parish.

Although a majority are opposed to more development in the parish, the questionnaires showed considerable support for more affordable housing, of various sizes, to rent or buy, available to local people, especially to younger and first time buyers, and those working locally. A very significant minority (60 questionnaires or 35.1%) favoured using land to provide some more housing, (most though not all of whom favoured low-cost housing). If all the genuine needs in the parish are to be considered, this minority cannot be ignored. The full figures are quoted in chapter 13.



Current Parish Council



1994



2000

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

A village design statement

Chapter 13 of the Parish Plan deals with the question whether there might be suitable sites for affordable housing which would not be detrimental to the appearance of Lazonby. It proposes the preparation of a “village design statement” which would consider possible locations for affordable housing. Such housing may need to be linked to local employment. The use of sites occupied by empty and derelict properties is one alternative to using green field sites.

Working with outside organisations

The Parish Council should open up a dialogue with the housing associations, and with Eden District Council, in order to make progress on the affordable housing problem. Cumbria Rural Housing Trust should be a useful source of advice and assistance.

Collecting evidence of local housing needs

Even if acceptable sites can be found, affordable housing schemes need both public money and planning permission, and these need to be based on good evidence. Planning permission for housing development is controlled by Eden District Council. Individual schemes are considered within a general planning policy for the District, taking account of the views of the Parish Council. Even where District limits do not strictly allow for more housing, exceptional permission may be given where there is evidence of local need for affordable housing.

Eden District Council has recently completed a survey of housing needs across the district, but the detailed results for Lazonby were not available in time for proper consideration by the Steering Group. The Parish Council should examine the new evidence, and should consider whether there is any need for further investigation, possibly in consultation with Cumbria Rural Housing Trust, so that the best possible case can be made to the District Council and the Housing Associations for an appropriate level of affordable housing in the parish.



6. PLAY AND LEISURE ACTIVITIES

There are lots of things to do in the Parish. Facilities for indoor community activities are good, with three good rooms at the village hall, as well as the chapel room, and the new school hall under construction.

We have an outdoor swimming pool and a bowling green, a thriving snooker club, pubs with a league for darts and pools. The river is good for fishing and canoeing. There is a village sports field, though access is poor and it is little used. Some people suggested having tennis courts, an indoor pool, others a café/tea-room.

The churches are important to social life in the parish: from the questionnaire responses, almost 20% of households go to places of worship and 12% belong to church related groups.

The village hall is a centre of activity. It has badminton and snooker, craft classes, local history, pre-school activities, coffee mornings, keep fit, the pantomime, and theatre promotions with music and story telling as well as plays, with occasional ceilidhs and private parties.

So for adults at any rate, a wide range of activities is available, and any group wanting to arrange something new has lots of scope. For youngsters, on the other hand, the picture is far from satisfactory.



Village Hall Ceilidh



Activities for youngsters

A lot of people think facilities for youngsters are poor - 25% said this for pre-schoolers, 28% for younger schoolchildren, and 47% for teenagers. One said “there is nowhere for teenagers to hang out”. Asked about what children in their households needed, 34% would like to see the youth club going again, 33% talked about sports clubs, 30% about holiday play schemes and 25% before and after-school clubs.

The play area

The play area at the junction of Rectory Road and Scaur Lane is most unsatisfactory. People say it is too close to the road (35%), has dangerous equipment (2%), and some are worried about people who “hang around” (8%). Groups of people have worked hard in the past to find a better location for a play area, but without success so far.

Safer streets

For lots of children, residential streets provide their play areas and cycle tracks, and safe movement of traffic is very important.

The youth club

People have also put a great deal of effort into starting and running a youth club, but this had to close recently, due to lack of adult volunteers to help with supervision. This leaves a very serious gap.

Footpaths and lanes

For many people, the most important leisure facility is our access to the surrounding countryside, using the footpaths and the back roads. People are keen to see the footpaths maintained, and would like to see more paths available. The idea of a circular walk by the river bank is often mentioned. The back roads also provide important walking and cycle routes. But most of the land in the parish is completely inaccessible to the public.



Lazonby School Tile Wall

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

Look after what we have

It is important to support existing activities and groups, and village resources such as the village hall, the bowling green, and the swimming pool, which depend entirely on volunteers to keep going.

Information about leisure activities

Although activities are often reported in the local paper, lots of notices appear on the boards, and in the “Lazonby Lines”, “Connect”, and “The Raven” newsletters, there is still room for improvement in the flow of information. More than one person spoke about the need to publicise events and facilities better. We could make fuller use of Lazonby Lines. A parish web-site, if it can be regularly updated, should be a good way of improving public information, and would particularly help people living outside the village.

The play area

The proposed “village design statement” (see chapter 13) should be used to identify a site for a future play area.

Youth activities

We must look for new ways to tackle the problem of organising youth activities, in consultation with the Eden Youth Work Partnership, sports organisations, and the local authorities.

Footpaths and lanes

The Parish Council could work in association with the Countryside Agency and with landowners to repair and improve the local footpath network. Some local people expressed a willingness to volunteer time for environmental work, which would be a good source of manpower.



Badger's Wath

7. TRAFFIC

Lazonby is a linear village served by a network of B and minor roads leading from the A6 in the west and from Penrith and the south. The B6413 runs through the village, where it meets the B6412 from Langwathby before crossing the river eastwards to Kirkoswald and the fellsides, and north to Brampton.

In the 2001 census, the 402 households in the parish owned 620 cars or vans between them - no wonder there's a traffic problem! And the numbers will grow.

Early morning and evening commuters increase the volume of car traffic through the village; bus traffic is confined to school runs and the Fellrunner community bus, with its volunteer drivers. There are many heavy vehicles, e.g., deliveries to Bell's Bakery and the Coop, agricultural supplies, large tractors, and cattle wagons especially serving the auction mart, all passing through the village centre.

Noise is a significant nuisance, from the heavy vehicles and goods trains, as well as from low flying aircraft.

There are no designated public parking areas. The Coop, the school, the leisure facilities, and many of the houses have no off-road parking, creating congestion on the main street.

Traffic problems

Almost everyone who answered the questionnaire mentioned traffic. Most concern was expressed about three things:

- * bad parking (64%): on footways, at blind corners, by the Co-op, near the school, and where the roads are narrow.
- * speeding (69%) both in the village and out on the open roads in the wider parish.
- * heavy vehicles (42%).

Other problems were mentioned by a few people: getting across Eden Bridge (5 questionnaires), need for more road lighting (8), need for a pedestrian crossing (1), and more footways, particularly from Lazonby to Kirkoswald (4), lack of cycle paths.

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

People suggested various measures to reduce speed: lower speed limits, speed bumps (though not everyone agrees with them!), illuminated slow signs. The police say they will carry out random speed checks.

Parking is now restricted outside the school and some people suggest more such restrictions. The police are willing to deal with dangerous parking, e.g. on footways, if they know about it - but someone has to report it.

The County Council, which is the authority controlling highways, have proposed a scheme of new signs and markings at the bottom of station approach, with a pedestrian safety barrier. There is no plan for more road lighting.

The government is proposing new schemes for quietening traffic in residential streets ("home zones") and quiet country lanes, and these schemes could be considered for use in Lazonby.

To influence the County Council's decisions on all these things, Lazonby needs to reach a clear opinion of its own, which the authorities will listen to. The Parish Council has formed a committee to decide what needs to be done in all traffic matters, so that it can argue our case.



8. PUBLIC TRANSPORT

21% of the responses said public transport is inadequate, and very few people can use it for travel to and from work. About 4% said they used buses regularly, and 2% trains.

According to the questionnaire survey, 89% of people have access to a car, but for those who do not, public transport is extremely important. Eden District Council give the over-60's some financial help with fares.

Lazonby has a station on the Leeds-Settle-Carlisle railway, with 6 trains each way stopping Monday to Saturday, and fewer on Sundays. There are no late evening trains. The Dales Railcard provides cheaper fares for local residents.

The Fellrunner bus operates 3 days per week to Penrith, and one day per week to Carlisle. The school bus to and from Penrith will also take paying passengers. Timetable information is published in the village, but not everyone is aware of it.

There are various taxi firms, though people find taxis expensive. The Voluntary Social Car Scheme is available for people who have difficulty in making journeys in other ways.

There are problems of access to the station (no handrail on the steps from the main street, and no disabled access to the southbound platform). There is no shelter on the northbound platform, though one is planned.

Interesting ideas came forward in the questionnaires, such as a minibus to the A6 to connect with the Penrith-Carlisle bus service, a minibus between Bartondale and the Co-op, more buses stopping at Penrith Railway Station.

All changes to rail and bus services have to be negotiated through the relevant authorities. For example, the Fellrunner now stops at Eden Court on Thursdays, after representations have been made to them.

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

Parishioners should make maximum use of the existing public transport services, both the Fellrunner and the railway, to show that they are needed.

Promote the use of existing services, by publicising timetables, and possibly by arranging group outings.

Encourage improvements like the northbound platform shelter, and the disabled access southbound.



Lazonby Railway Station



Fellrunner Bus Stop Outside Lazonby Village Hall



9. CRIME

Many thought Lazonby a relatively safe place to live, and most did not regard crime or disorderly behaviour as a serious problem, though some did mention graffiti or vandalism (4%), drugs (4%), or theft (4%). Views on policing in Lazonby were divided: 49% wanted a more obvious police presence, while 44% thought it about right.

Although not everyone wanted to take part in a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, 10% were already involved, and more (39%) said they would like to join. 45% thought better play and leisure facilities would reduce the risk of bad behaviour by youngsters. Better home and garden security were thought to be important (22% and 14%).

Although it seems unlikely that Lazonby will ever again have a resident policeman, efforts are being made to keep people in touch with the local force. The mobile police station is in the village every month, both during the day and in the evening, and this is advertised on notice boards and in newsletters. Our local policeman can now be reached on the phone.

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

People should talk to the police and report suspicious incidents promptly.

Individuals may take up the option of a free security check.

Invite the Cumbria Neighbourhood Watch Development Officer to come to a public meeting to consider extending the scheme in Lazonby.



10. NUISANCES

Many people see Lazonby as a pleasant place to live but there are significant nuisances which need to be dealt with. 43% of respondents were concerned about dog-fouling, and 44% about traffic noise. 33% mentioned litter, in the village and at the Bridge End Park, where the untidy recycling centre (which is under the control of Eden District Council) came in for particular criticism.

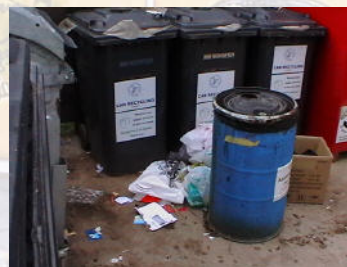
Noise, especially traffic noise, but also aircraft noise and noise from building work, bothered many people. Excessive security lighting was mentioned, while others requested better street lighting. Uneven pavements contributed to problems walking around the village (23%). The Parish Council has been actively supporting improvements in many of these areas.

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

Any problems which parishioners experience should be reported to the Parish or District Council, who can ensure that their responsibilities can be investigated and hopefully dealt with.

The tidy appearance of the village is largely a matter of individual effort, when homes and businesses look after their own property, and each person takes their small share of the task for the cleanliness of public spaces in the village and surrounding lanes.

The apparent conflict between safe lighting, and creating an “town-centre” appearance with too many bright lights, can be solved by using well-designed lighting, both in the streets and on private housing. This could be included in the proposed village design statement.



Recycling Area



Muddy Roadside Verges

11. EMPLOYMENT AND THE LOCAL ECONOMY

We live in a period of little unemployment, particularly within Eden District. It is therefore not surprising that employment was not a major issue in the questionnaire responses. Much of the available employment, however, pays quite low wages, and this has particular implications for housing policy. If local housing is not affordable, people may no longer be available here to work in local businesses.

Although most people work outside the parish, Lazonby is unusual among rural parishes in having a significant number of employers based in its area, even in the village: notably Bells Bakery and the Co-op, but also smaller employers such as the school, Croglin Toys, the auction mart, and the petrol station and car saleroom, are visible in the community. So, although agricultural employment has continued to decline, Lazonby still has the air of a lively working village, something which people value highly.

The 2001 census showed that the largest categories of paid employment for men were manufacturing (47), wholesale, retail and vehicle repair (35), construction (31) and agriculture/forestry (28): the four largest categories for women were health and social care (38), education (37), wholesale and retail (27) and manufacturing (25).

Self-employment is a very important factor (accounting for almost a quarter of employment), and itself may generate employment for others. To maintain and encourage this, it is important that land and property are available for workshops and small office spaces when required.

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

Land use policy and change-of-use decisions should ensure that space for very small businesses continues to be available when required locally.

A directory of local businesses, possibly available on a web-site, may be useful to help businesses and services to thrive.

The Parish Council should take advice from “Rural Regeneration Cumbria” on this issue.

12. SERVICES

Most people feel that services in Lazonby are generally very good. The village is relatively fortunate in the range of services available here.

People were particularly positive about the Co-op (83% of respondents) and the Post Office (92%), the school, the recycling facility, some aspects of transport, the village hall, and the pubs. Others mentioned the garage and places of worship; also the GP nearby in Kirkoswald, although access to the surgery is difficult without a car, and there is no pavement to get there on foot.

People were critical about limited public transport, the poor access to the library (the van visits only three-weekly), hairdresser, vet, chemist, launderette, optician, butcher, sports and leisure facilities, restaurant, fast food delivery. Internet access was poor at the time of our survey, but broadband has since arrived.

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

We can make as much use as possible of existing local services, to keep them thriving.

Where public authorities are responsible for services, we can lobby them to do better, both individually and through the Parish Council.



13. THE APPEARANCE OF THE VILLAGE AND ITS COUNTRYSIDE

A very high proportion of people love the appearance and character of Lazonby village and its surroundings. Although its rural character remains, it is not a “show” village or excessively pretty. There is no excessive commercialism, or very obvious tourism. There is some local employment, and it has the air of a working rural community. Common views were well summarised in one response: “an idyllic place to live with a lovely, healthy environment ideal for raising a family”. But it is under threat: one person felt Lazonby had already changed into a “small town”.

Lazonby's Landscape

Lazonby is surrounded by a wonderful landscape, to look at and explore, on foot or by bicycle. This landscape is largely a product of working farmland and managed woodland. To the west and north are large areas of heath land and woods, with some sites of special scientific importance. Open fields fill the area between the fells and the river valley, and the parish riverside is particularly favoured. The North Pennines (designated an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) dominate views to the east.

People really value this unspoiled landscape, the glorious view and the sunsets, and the closeness to “wildlife species such as kingfishers, sand martins, oyster catchers, herons, curlews, owls, woodpeckers, red Squirrels, deer and game birds”. Some are interested in working on environmental projects. More involvement with conservation bodies such as The Woodland Trust was suggested. People look forward to “right to roam” opportunities on the fell lands. Although the landscape will no doubt change as farming changes, the countryside is not thought to be under serious threat - though one person was concerned about possible wind farms.



Traditional buildings and the “street-scape”

People like the way that the “strung-out” village layout with its many open fields and smaller green spaces, merges into this landscape. They are fond of its traditional red sandstone buildings, and praise its clean and tidy appearance, enhanced by attractive private gardens. The local garden competition, and the Best-Kept Village Contest, have encouraged individual effort and pride in the village. Although some new development has been sensitively done, there are examples of insensitive design, thought to be quite out of character. People are overwhelmingly opposed to any further loss of green fields and open space in and around the village.

Asked whether it was important to retain the open spaces we have within the parish, 137 of respondents (80.1%) said yes, 2 (1.2%) said no, 22 (12.9%) said don't know, and 2 (1.2%) said it doesn't matter. Only 8 (4.7%) failed to answer this question.

Asked whether, for the parish to thrive, it will have to use some of the open space within its boundaries, 80 (46.8%) said no, 60 (35.1%) said yes, 21 (12.3%) said don't know, and 10 (5.8%) did not answer.

Asked about the use of green spaces for development, of the 171 questionnaires, 51 were in favour of building houses, 15 a business park, 9 office space, and 18 shops.

Support for building more houses differed according to their cost: of the 171 questionnaires, 43 (25.1%) supported houses costing under £100,000, 15 (8.8%) supported houses costing between £100,000 and £199,999, and 5 (2.9%) supported houses costing £200,000 and over.

Much of the village character is a matter of small details, the individual buildings, trees and plants, the stone walls, occasional seats, grassy areas, the street signs and litter-bins. Some years ago the Local History Society carried out a survey of the external design of the older houses, and that information could be used to identify their special characteristics.

Should the village expand further?

There is a conflict which the parish will have to cope with. Although the questionnaires showed very little support for more high-value houses (and a majority of people don't want any more houses at all) there is significant backing for more affordable housing to meet local need, so that the village can remain a viable, balanced, working community, not just a commuter suburb and retirement area.

But if there are to be any more new houses, where can they go without spoiling the village? Some people don't like the idea of further development along the roads leading out of the village, and some argue for a "development boundary" around the edge, to stop more encroachment into the open countryside. But there is also a very strong feeling that existing open spaces within the village should be preserved, and sites designated for recreation and possibly parking, so that Lazonby keeps its open, rural character, with lots of green areas, trees and wildlife within the village. So there will need to be some compromise, and future land use will have to be carefully planned.

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

Influence the planning authorities - hold them to account

The questionnaire revealed concern that local opinion has not always been listened to by Eden District Council. People's responses send a strong message to the planning authorities, Eden District and the County Council, and give the Parish Council the backing it needs to stand up for Lazonby with a clear message about what we need. The whole planning system is changing - now is the time for Lazonby to put forward its own views on what should happen here.

Be actively involved with the planning system

Local people clearly expressed the view that planning applications, and the designs of new buildings, must be scrutinised thoroughly. The changes brought about by the new Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 mean that local people will have far greater opportunity to be directly involved in the process in future. So we need lots of people to take an active interest in planning policies and decisions - they can affect everyone's environment and quality of life. The more people take an interest in the Parish Council, communicate with their councillors and council officials and if necessary our M.P., the more we can influence our future in Lazonby.

Propose clear local policies for Lazonby through a Village Design Statement

A simple "village design statement" could be drawn up by the Parish Council, with the help of Eden District, to guide future development. This would refer to the special nature of the local countryside, as well as to the characteristic features of our village building styles. It would attend to derelict land and buildings, identify and protect land for essential services such as play and sports, as well as affordable housing. It might define particular conservation areas, and any need for tree preservation orders, and set high standards for street signs and lighting design.

For instance, people suggested that protection from development should be applied to a number of sensitive areas, including near the old Parish School (now Croglin Toys), Will Pool (the duck pond), the whole area around the church, and around the swimming pool and school field; also the flood plain of the River Eden, the fields opposite Bartondale and beyond Seat Hill, and the remaining undeveloped slope above Bank Foot.



APPENDIX

OFFICIAL POLICY DOCUMENTS AFFECTING THE PARISH PLAN

Official documents relevant to the Parish Plan, with implications for the Parish's requirements in respect of housing, employment, planning, and the landscape, include the following.

- * Government advice contained in Planning Policy Statement PPS1 (February 2005)
- * Government advice contained in Planning Policy Guidance PPG3 - 'Housing' (March 2000);
- * Government advice contained in Planning Policy Statement PPS7 'Sustainable Development in Rural Areas' (August 2004);
- * Regional Planning Guidance for the North West RPG13 (Draft Revised) March 2004;
- * County planning policies contained in 'Planning Cumbria' - Cumbria and Lake District Joint Structure Plan 2001-2016 - Proposed Changes (June 2004);
- * Eden District Local Plan (1996);
- * Eden District Local Plan Review (January 2002);
- * Eden Local Plan Housing Policies and Draft Affordable Housing Policies - Consultation Document (March 2004).
- * Cumbria County Council Cumbria Landscape Classification (1995)
- * Technical Paper 5 - Landscape Character". Cumbria County Council and Lake District - Joint Structure Plan 2001-2016 (Jan. 2003)

THE PARISH PLAN STEERING GROUP WISHES TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE GENEROUS ASSISTANCE IT HAS RECEIVED FROM MANY PEOPLE IN THE COURSE OF ITS WORK

including those who helped distribute questionnaires, and all the parishioners who returned them so full of ideas;

those who helped organise the competitions (including Lazonby School), those who entered, and those who judged the entries; those who supplied the photos used in the plan or assisted with editing and checking the final document;

Voluntary Action Cumbria, for advice throughout the long process; and the Countryside Agency, Bells of Lazonby, and Heaven Entertainment Ltd for financial support to meet its costs.

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Action	Priority	Lead	Partners	Timescale	Resource implications
The Community					
1. Set up a Lazonby Parish web site, with details of local events, problems and suggestions, and parish projects for which volunteers are needed	medium	PC/ website organiser	Local businesses voluntary groups village hall	short	£50 domain registration (funds secured) hosting costs, volunteer time
2. replace, maybe re-site noticeboards, for better accessibility to everyone	low	PC		short	£3,000 already under way
3. consider providing a welcome pack for newcomers (already being considered)	medium	W.I.	web-site organiser	short	volunteer time printing costs
4. make full use of Lazonby Lines, and find a way to get it to everyone in the parish	medium	school	volunteers, school webiste organiser	short	postage, printing, volunteer time, more sponsorship
The Parish Council					
1..The parish council should review its own methods of working, and its means of communication to and from parishioners in the light of people's comments	medium	PC	local residents, Parish Plan Steering Group	short	PC time volunteer time
2. a good first step would be to make sure that all members are known to the Parish - not just names but interests and particular expertise	medium	PC	web-site organiser	short	PC time, photograph, printing
Affordable Housing					
1. use the proposed Village Design Statement (VDS) to look for acceptable sites for more affordable housing	high	VDS group	PC, local residents local businesses, EDC	medium	
2. Open up a dialogue about affordable housing with relevant local agencies	high	VDS group and PC	Eden Housing Assoc. Two Castles H.Assoc. Cumbria Rural Housing Trust	medium	volunteer time

Action	Priority	Lead	Partners	Timescale	Resource implications
Affordable Housing continued					
3. consider supplementing the District Housing Needs Survey with additional research about needs in Lazonby	high	VDS group and PC	as previous action	medium	volunteer time approx. £500 for further survey
Play and Leisure					
1. improve publicity about activities; consider using website & Lazonby Lines to encourage support of existing facilities & activities	medium		web-site organiser school	on-going	postage, printing volunteer time
2. use the Village Design Statement process to look for a site for a really good play area	low	VDS group PC	EDC, Toddler Group, school	medium	likely cost more than £20,000
3. try again to re-start youth activities	medium		CCC youth development officer, volunteers, people with experience	short	volunteer time, start-up costs staff costs, venue costs
4. work to improve the network of footpaths and quiet lanes	medium	VDS group	PC, CPRE, ECCP, CCHighways	long	unknown
Traffic					
1. the PC should ask its traffic committee to take account of the views collected for the Parish Plan, and to consider the proposed schemes for managing traffic in residential streets and in quiet lanes used by walkers	high	PC	local residents, local businesses, police, CCC Highways Capita	short	unknown
2. encourage everyone to report bad parking and speeding	medium	Police	PC, local residents	short	none

Action	Priority	Lead	Partners	Timescale	Resource implications
Public Transport					
1. look for ways to encourage the use of existing public transport, by first-class publicity for timetables, and possibly by arranging group outings	medium		Fellrunner, CCC, W.I., Settle-Carlisle railway, school, village hall, web-site organiser	ongoing	publicity, printing, volunteer time
2. lobby agencies for improvements like the northbound platform shelter, and disabled access southbound	medium	PC	railway authorities	short	unknown
Crime					
1. ask Cumbria C.C. to hold a Neighbourhood Forum Meeting on the theme of crime, disorder and public safety in Lazonby	high	PC/CCC	CCC, Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership, Police, Neighbourhood Watch	medium	venue
Employment and the Local Economy					
1. ensure that planning policies and decisions are sympathetic to small businesses	high	PC	local businesses, local residents. Rural Development Agency	ongoing	PC time
2. consider a directory of local businesses, possibly in a web-site	medium	PC	local businesses website organiser	short	as web-site
Services					
1. lobby service providers, using the Parish Plan, to make sure they meet local needs, especially when services are threatened	high	PC	local residents, local businesses, service providers	ongoing	unknown

Action	Priority	Lead	Partners	Timescale	Resource implications
The Appearance of the Village and its Countryside					
1. influence the planning authorities by proposing clear planning policies for Lazonby, through a village design statement	high	VDS group/ Parish Council	local residents, local businesses, EDC, Local History Society	medium	volunteer time production costs
General					
1. the Parish Plan should be publicised to everyone within the parish	low	Parish Plan Steering Group	PC, local residents	short	covered by Parish Plan budget
2. the Parish Council should establish a formal process, based on this action plan, with regular reviews, and should report progress to each parish open meeting	medium	PC	local residents	medium	PC time
3. use the publicity about the Plan, the web-site and local newsletters, to encourage everyone to be involved in achieving the aims of the Plan, both by volunteering and by lobbying the authorities	medium	PC	website organiser newsletter editors lead agencies for projects	ongoing	volunteer time
4. a list of contact numbers and e-mail addresses of the various public authorities should be collected and circulated to parishioners, so that they can make their views known directly	low	PC	website organiser newsletter editors public authorities local councillors	short	production costs